



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of Linda Smith  
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the

House Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, March 25, 2008  
4:05 P.M.

SB2245 SD1 HD1

Representative Waters and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Governor supports this measure, which makes it a violation of the traffic code to leave young children unattended in vehicles.

The purpose of this measure is to protect young children from being left unattended in motor vehicles. In light of incidents in Hawaii and around the nation where leaving children unattended in cars have led to tragic consequences, it is time for the State to take action.

This bill:

- 1) Makes it a violation of the Statewide Traffic Code for the vehicle operator or an adult passenger to leave a child under the age of nine unattended in a vehicle for five or more minutes;
- 2) Allows law enforcement, firefighter, or rescue team personnel to use whatever means reasonably necessary to protect the unattended child or others and to remove the unattended child from the motor vehicle, if they determine that the child is in physical danger or poses a danger to others;
- 3) Requires law enforcement, firefighter, or rescue team personnel to immediately report the matter to a police officer if the person having care or custody of the unattended child cannot be located within a reasonable time;
- 4) Allows the police officer to whom the matter is reported to assume protective custody of the child without a court order or consent of the child's family;
- 5) Includes testing of an applicant's knowledge of this new violation on the driver's licensing

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examination; and

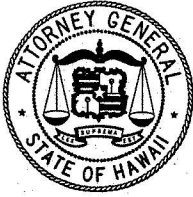
- 6) Requires rental car companies to post notice of this new law in their rental vehicles.

According to Kids in Cars, a nonprofit organization leading the charge for legislation on this subject, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington (12 states) already have laws prohibiting children from being left unattended in motor vehicles. In addition, Kentucky and Missouri have laws that take effect when an injury or death occurs.

As previously cited in the testimony of the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of Honolulu:

“When the outside temperature is 80 degrees F (a common occurrence in Hawaii), the temperature inside a car receiving direct sunlight can reach 110 degrees F after 5 minutes. When a child’s (or any other person’s) body temperature reaches 106 degrees F, he or she can die or suffer permanent disability from heat stroke. Children left unattended in cars have also died from strangulation by a power window, inadvertently knocking a vehicle into gear, carbon monoxide poisoning, falling out of the car and being run over, choking on a toy or being kidnapped. A 2003 Center for Disease Control and Prevention study reports that during July 2000 to June 2001, an estimated 9,160 non fatal injuries and 78 fatal injuries occurred in children 14 and younger as a result of being left unattended in or around motor vehicles that were not in traffic.”

The Office of the Governor believes this measure is necessary in order to discourage parents from leaving children unattended in vehicles in the State of Hawaii, and therefore respectfully requests its passage.



**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2245, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 25, 2008 **TIME:** 4:05 PM

**LOCATION:** State Capitol Room 325  
*Deliver to: Committee Clerk, Room 302, 5 copies*

**TESTIFIER(S):** Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General  
or Lance M. Goto, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure.

The purpose of this bill is to protect children under the age of nine by making it a violation of the statewide traffic code for motor vehicle operators and adult passengers to leave a child unattended in a motor vehicle for five minutes or more. The bill requires the examiner of drivers to test driver's license applicants for knowledge of this violation and also requires lessors of rental vehicles to display the law regarding this violation in the rental vehicles.

Young children left unattended in a vehicle may be at great risk for injury or death. If mobile inside the vehicle, and able to touch vehicle controls, the children may also pose a great risk of danger to others. This bill addresses a situation with potentially devastating results.

We respectfully request the passage of this measure.

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Hawaii to the House Committee on Judiciary**

Hrg: Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 4:05 pm  
5 copies required

**S.B. NO. 2245 SD1 HD1: RELATING TO UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN  
MOTOR VEHICLES**

Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

We oppose S.B. No. 2245 SD1 HD1 which seeks to create a violation of the traffic code to leave a child unattended in a motor vehicle. It is a common practice among some parents, while running errands, to leave their children alone in their cars for short periods of time. Some parents decide to leave their children in the car because they are in a rush, the errand is brief or their child is sleeping. Some errands may be as brief as stopping at the bank to withdraw money from the ATM, or running into the supermarket to pick up a carton of milk. Under this measure, such acts would become a violation if the child were left unattended for even a brief period. The violation would exist even if the child was not at risk of physical danger or harm. We do not believe that leaving one's child unattended in a car for a few minutes to run an errand such as going to the post office is behavior that this legislature should proscribe.

There currently are other laws, which could be applied, to punish similar but more outrageous behavior. For example, if this same parent had left her child in a car with the windows up for a lengthy period of time and the child were to perish, he/she could be charged with manslaughter, for recklessly causing her child's death or even murder for knowingly causing the child's death. If the child did not die, she could be charged with reckless endangering, or even assault in the third degree.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

March 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S. B. 2245, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO UNATTENDED  
CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES

Hearing: Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 4:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S. B. 2245, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, is to make it a violation of the statewide traffic code to leave a child unattended in a motor vehicle, to require the examiner of drivers to test driver's license applicants for knowledge of this offense, and to require notice of law in rental cars.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services appreciates and strongly supports the intent of this bill.

The Department is concerned that this bill defines "unattended" as leaving a child in a motor vehicle unaccompanied by a person of at least 12 years of age. This definition is unable to take into account the maturity of a 12 year old child, for example, as would be the case if an infant was left in a

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

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motor vehicle with a 12 year old person who has a developmental delay or other limited cognitive functioning.

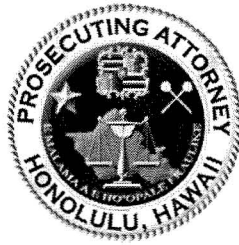
We suggest deletion of this definition in order to provide law enforcement officers, firefighters and rescue personnel with the maximum ability to respond to an unsafe situation without unnecessary restrictions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515



PETER B. CARLISLE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Twenty-fourth State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2008**  
**State of Hawaii**

March 25, 2008

**RE: S.B. 2245, S.D. 1, H.D. 1; RELATING TO UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES**

**HEARING: Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 4:05 p.m., Conference Room 325**

Good afternoon Chair Waters and members of the House Judiciary Committee, the Department of Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of **S.B. 2245, SD. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles.**

The purpose of this bill is to add a new offense of Leaving a Child Unattended in a Motor Vehicle in chapter *291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)*. The offense provides that a person is liable when the person leaves a child under age nine in a motor vehicle without being accompanied by a person at least twelve years of age; it is punishable only by a fine similar to those provided in HRS section 291C-161(b). In addition, the bill also requires the driver's license test to specifically test for the applicant's knowledge of this law and mandates that rental car agencies display information about this law.

Under current laws, if a person leaves a minor in a vehicle, the person may be subject to prosecution for the misdemeanor offense of endangering the welfare of a minor in the second degree, HRS section 709-904(2), if and only if the person **knowingly** endangered the minor's physical or mental welfare by leaving the minor in the vehicle and thereby violated a legal duty of care or protection owed to the minor. The "knowing" state of mind requires that the defendant must be aware that it is **practically certain** that his or her conduct will cause the endangering of the minor's physical or mental welfare. This is often difficult to prove.

Creation of this offense would be significantly easier to prove since it would not require proof that the defendant was aware of the risk to the child; all that the prosecution would have to prove is that the person left the minor in the car without the required supervision. Given the number of incidents reported to the police involving unattended minor children whose parents have left them in the car under hazardous conditions, we believe this proposed offense is sorely needed. Unsupervised children under the age of 9, are vulnerable to physical injury due to the considerable potential for danger inherent to motor vehicles. For example, when the outside temperature is 80

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degrees F (a common occurrence in Hawaii), the temperature inside a car receiving direct sunlight can reach 110 degrees F after 5 minutes. When a child's (or any other person's) body temperature reaches 106 degrees F, he or she can die or suffer permanent disability from heat stroke. Children left unattended in cars have also died from strangulation by a power window, inadvertently knocking a vehicle into gear, carbon monoxide poisoning, falling out of the car and being run over, choking on a toy or being kidnapped. A 2003 Center for Disease Control and Prevention study reports that during July 2000 to June 2001, an estimated 9,160 nonfatal injuries and 78 fatal injuries occurred in children 14 and younger as a result of being left unattended in or around motor vehicles that were not in traffic.

At least one dozen states have now adopted legislation specifically prohibiting leaving children alone in a motor vehicle. It is time for Hawaii to join the ranks of those states that have already acted to promote the safety of children in motorcars through this simple, but effective, means. The nominal fine attached to the violation proposed in this bill will serve as a reasonable reminder to parents, and an effective preventive measure for reducing the potential of this totally avoidable risk to our children.

For this reason, we strongly urge your support for the passage of Senate Bill 2212, S.D. 1, H.D. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Written Testimony of  
Deona Ryan  
Chair, Hot Spot

**THE SENATE**

**THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**

**REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

Rep. Tommy Waters, Chair  
Rep. Blake K. Oshiro, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

TIME: 4:05 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**SB2245**

000154

**Written Testimony of  
Deona Ryan  
Chair, Hot Spot**

I want to testify regarding proposed SB2245 for many reasons. I support SB2245 to be a traffic violation, though I feel putting a 5-minute time limit is dangerous, as many interpretations throughout the community can delay quick responses needed to save a child's life. I request that the 5-minute rule be omitted so that quick responses are available to save lives of children.

Hawaii has lost 3 children to hyperthermia deaths since 1998, according to media reports (in general, states do not track children who die or are injured as a result of being left in a vehicle.) Nationwide, for the year of 2007, 925 children were injured from being left unattended in cars with 231 children dying from those injuries. This is a profound issue.

More occurrences of abduction with children being taken after a parent leaves them unattended in a motor vehicle have plagued media reports over the last 4 years. The average time that a person takes to take a car ranges from 1-4 minutes. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau report Hawaii alone has had approximately 4,935 cars stolen in 2006 with 2007 data still pending and with the increases in car theft the potential for abductions likely to increase. Carjackers have unknowingly driven off with infants still in the backseat of the car, leaving behind a screaming and emotionally distressed parent.

I am testifying for one child that died in Hawaii in 2004, my daughter, Aslyn Ryan.

Our little girl, Aslyn, died on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004 after suffering from hyperthermia after prolonged exposure to extreme environmental conditions in a car at Kapiolani Medical center while we were stationed in Hawaii.

Our mission now is to prevent other parents and families from the heartache we have suffered.

On the morning of Feb 5<sup>th</sup> my husband dropped our 1 year old daughter off for child care at her sitters house. Our day went the same as it always had but at 2:30 PM we were called to come to the ER because our child was suffering from respiratory problems. Her temperature was almost 106 degrees when the ambulance arrived at the sitter's residence.

I never, as a nurse, could have dreamed what the horror of walking into the ER to see a code being performed on my own child would be.

Over the next 48 hours of her life, in the Intensive Care Unit, she suffered from the trauma that this incident caused. She suffered multiple strokes, and needed continuous blood transfusions from bleeding from her intestines, kidneys, and nose. She suffered many other hypoxic and hyperthermia related injuries. A parent's most heart breaking moment in life is having the neurologist tell you that your baby was no longer the baby we once knew and the medical staff was prolonging her death. She struggled to survive but on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2004 she lost her fight for life. We laid her to rest on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2004.

The difficulty recovering over the last 4 years was magnified by the fact that that the sitter caring for her that day was never punished nor was she found criminally negligent. Through the investigation, she told multiple different versions of what happened but the overlying reality and medical evidence that she allegedly left her in a car and this outweighed any other story she told. Truth never changes.

The plans my family had had included life with Aslyn, but now time has been filled with the educating the community through the Hot Spot Program we have founded in her memory and we do whatever is possible to educate the community to prevent others from enduring the pain we have to suffer every day. No parent should ever have to feel this pain. No parent should ever feel that there is no justice.

Our program has been to educate the community on the dangers of leaving a child alone in a car can include:

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- Heat stroke/Death
- Strangulation in a car window
- Injury from being backed over or setting a car in motion
- Abduction by a stranger

Dozens of children have died every year across the country and these children have come from all areas of the country and from all parts of society and all racial backgrounds.

In 2007, more than 35 children were only known to have died through media reports, these numbers do not include those that were left in a hot car, saved just in time, or those who have suffered but have not died as a result of being left in cars.

Many law enforcement and first responders we work with state that they see this all the time, but numbers are severely underestimated. Our country lacks ICD-9 codes for hospitals to adequately track these deaths and reports due to hyperthermia. Police and Fire Departments across the country encompass the reports of children left unattended in cars into welfare check codes or in children locked in cars categories.

Nationally only 50% of cases where a caregiver or parent has left a child in a car, has been charged with a crime.

The most significantly, far too many children have lost their lives to something that is completely preventable. Whether it be an accident or intentional, how can we send a message that this is wrong. Our children are our legacy and we as a nation need to heed to the realization that we must protect our future. Children are dying from being left unattended in Motor Vehicles on warm/hot days depriving the community of their unrealized potential.

Some of these parents or caregivers have arrived at a store with their baby sleeping in the car seat. Not wanting to awaken the child, they leave them inside the car because they are only going into the store for a **minute**. As they gather what they need in the store, a minute turns into 5 minutes. When they are ready to check out, the checkout line is full which in turn turns into another 5 minutes. As they are leaving the store, they run into a friend and talk for another five minutes. Now, all of the sudden, the child has been restrained in the hot car for over **15 minutes**.

The temperature inside a car can skyrocket quickly. It is a metal box with no air circulation. A child or anyone is not going to be able to tolerate it for very long. Heat is much more dangerous to children than it is to adults. A child's small size makes it hard for the child to shed heat. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's core body temperature may increase 3-5 times faster than that of an adult. This could cause permanent injury or even death.

On an 100 degree day your car can reach 124 degree day within 15 minutes and even an 89 degree day your car can reach 108 degrees within 20 minutes. Cracking windows does nothing to help lower the temperature.

Help us with our educational message by making this Bill a traffic violation, but please do not pass it with a time period. Our Hot Spot education teaches immediately calling for assistance when a child is discovered in a car. Help us save the Hawaii keiki by passing a bill that makes this a traffic violation. Send a clear message that this is a preventable injury and that those who violate this law will be held accountable. Do not let what happened to Aslyn happen to anyone ever again.

Deona Ryan, Chair  
 Hot Spot  
 9186 E Wolfberry St  
 Tucson AZ 85747  
 808-778-0851

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**JUDtestimony**

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**From:** Carolyn Fujioka [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2008 4:50 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony SB2245, SD1,HD1 3/25

**Testimony to the House Committee On Judiciary  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol  
Tuesday, March 25, 2008 4:05 pm**

**RE: Senate Bill 2245, SD1,HD1**

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Oshiro, and committee members:

I am Carolyn Fujioka, on behalf of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, a mutual company owned by its policyholders. State Farm supports Senate Bill 2245, SD1, HD1.

State Farm has a long history of committing resources to helping improve auto safety, in particular, its partnership with The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the first academic-corporate partnership devoted to the safety of children in motor vehicles.

State Farm strongly supports the bill's provision that young children should not be left unattended in motor vehicles under any circumstances. Although arguments have been raised against legislating "good judgment," other laws such as seat belt and child passenger safety laws have demonstrated the benefits of enacting such public policy. Requiring the law to be included in the driver's examination and rental car companies to provide notice of the prohibition to renters will help raise public awareness of the dangers of leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Date: March 23, 2008  
To: Judiciary Committee  
From: Gladys Joy O. Cabradilla

I, Gladys Joy Orteza Cabradilla support the passing of S.B. 2245. Leaving a child in a car unattended for more than five minutes is unethical, therefore, it is necessary that the state of Hawai'i establishes this act so that we can continue protecting the safety of Hawaii's children. Everyone including tourists must abide by this law when enacted. Having said that, car rental agencies must notify their renters regarding this law and the consequences when violating it.

We do not want to here another local breaking news about a child who is abducted simply because the parent left him or her alone inside the car. We certainly do not want to add to the statistic of children deaths due to hyperthermia. In a matter of minutes, temperature of a locked car exposed to the sun can exceed 150 degrees. According to an article from KHNL News, 29 children died of hyperthermia in 2006 while left alone inside a car. Those who have not heard of such incident are probably not aware of the risks of leaving a child inside the car. It just makes sense to raise awareness so that we can avoid another statistic. Anyone who violates this law must be liable. We need to let everyone know the effects on children when they are left inside the car unattended. To tell you the truth, I myself was not aware of the effects. Doing research on this issue made me think about my niece and nephews. I need to be even more careful with them especially because I often bring them to places I go.

I urge you to pass this bill. Children today are our future. We must provide them a safe environment.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

If you have questions in regards to this issue, feel free to email me at .

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## JUDtestimony

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**From:** Jane Do [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2008 8:30 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** SB2245 Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles

**Attachments:** HB2034 Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles



HB2034 Relating to  
Unattended...

SB2245 Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles March 25, 2008  
4:05pm Conference Room 325 Committee on Judiciary

March 24, 2008

Dear members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to you in support of SB2245 Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles. I am a concerned resident of Hawai'i who hopes to prevent Hawai'i's children from being injured or killed by a very senseless act. I am also an aunty of a 5 month-old who I hope will led a healthy childhood while growing up in Hawai'i. In addition, I am a Public Health graduate student at University of Hawai'i and have done some research related to this issue. From 2000 to 2007, 1,388 children across the country died from being left unattended in motor vehicles (due to heat exhaustion, inadvertently starting the car, suffocation by automatic car windows, etc). Since 1990, 13 of Hawai'i's children have lost their lives after they were left unattended in motor vehicles. These are tragic but preventable deaths.

We need to raise public awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended inside motor vehicles. In 2007, the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety (ACTS) conducted a national survey to assess parents' knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral practices regarding cars and their children's safety. This survey found that many parents held low perceived risk regarding leaving unattended children in and around cars. For example, 66% of parents thought it was unlikely or very unlikely that a child in their neighborhood might die from the heat after being left alone in a car. Therefore, SB2245 would not only give law enforcement a preventive tool to greatly reduce these tragic incidents in the future, but it could also educate parents and the public about the dangers of this practice. This bill would protect Hawai'i's children from a preventable tragedy.

Currently, 12 states have a law that prohibits caregivers from leaving children unattended in motor vehicles and 16 other states, aside from Hawai'i, are proposing similar laws. I hope our state chooses to protect our children and this bill will be passed with your support.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Jane Chung Do

[REDACTED]  
Kaneohe, Hi 96744

## JUDtestimony

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**From:** Jane Do [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:34 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** HB2034 Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles

Senate Transportation Committee  
Re: HB2034 Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles Monday, March 10, 2008 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224

March 6, 2008

Dear members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I am writing to you in support of HB2034 Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles. I am a concerned resident of Hawai'i who hope to prevent Hawai'i's children from being injured or killed by a very senseless act. I am also an aunty of a 5 month-old who I hope will led a healthy childhood while growing up in Hawai'i. In addition, I am a Public Health graduate student at University of Hawai'i and have done some research related to this issue. From 2000 to 2007, 1,388 children across the country died from being left unattended in motor vehicles (due to heat exhaustion, inadvertently starting the car, suffocation by automatic car windows, etc). Since 1990, 13 of Hawai'i's children have lost their lives after they were left unattended in motor vehicles. These are tragic but preventable deaths.

We need to raise public awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended inside motor vehicles. In 2007, the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety (ACTS) conducted a national survey to assess parents' knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral practices regarding cars and their children's safety. This survey found that many parents held low perceived risk regarding leaving unattended children in and around cars. For example, 66% of parents thought it was unlikely or very unlikely that a child in their neighborhood might die from the heat after being left alone in a car. Therefore, HB 2034 would not only give law enforcement a preventive tool to greatly reduce these tragic incidents in the future, but it could also educate parents and the public about the dangers of this practice. This bill would protect Hawai'i's children from a preventable tragedy.

Currently, 12 states have a law that prohibits caregivers from leaving children unattended in motor vehicles and 16 other states, aside from Hawai'i, are proposing similar laws. I hope our state chooses to protect our children and this bill will be passed with your support.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Jane Chung Do  
[REDACTED]

Kaneohe, Hi 96744

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## JUDtestimony

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**From:** Michelle Dufour [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2008 1:36 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** SB2245 SD1 HD1

March 23, 2008

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary Conference Room 325, State Capitol Tuesday, March 25, 2008 4:05 p.m.

Re: Senate Bill 2245, SD1 HD1, Relating to unattended children in motor vehicles.

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Oshiro, and other committee members:

I am Michelle Dufour, a Social Work student at University of Hawaii-Manoa, and I approve of SB 2456, SD1, HD1.

Parents, grandparents, and those who take care of children do not always realize how serious and dangerous leaving a child unattended in their car can be. They often do not believe during that "one minute" they are gone their child can be in danger, as long as they lock the doors. They often think it will never happen to them. However, that is not necessarily true. Even with the doors locked, they are in danger, due to excessive heat. If SB 2245, SD1, HD1 is passed parents may think twice about leaving their children unattended in a motor vehicle, whether they believe it will happen to them or not. They will reconsider in order to avoid being fined and it may save a child's life.

If you have any question please feel free to contact me at [dufour@hawaii.edu](mailto:dufour@hawaii.edu).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Michelle Dufour

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Waipahu, Hi. 96797



House Committee on Judiciary

**Testimony in support of SB 2245 SD1 HD1**  
Relating to Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles

Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 4:05 p.m.  
House Conference Room 325


Dear Committee Chair Tommy Waters and Members of House Committee on Judiciary

My name is Kimberly Lee. I am a student at University of Hawaii, School of Social Work. I am writing in support of SB 2245 SD1 HD1, "relating to unattended children in motor vehicles."

Through the social work training and experiences, I became more aware of social issues related to children. Injuries and deaths among children while left unattended in motor vehicles have escalated, yet this issue has not been critically addresses in the public domain. These incidences can be prevented, if caregivers give more consideration about potential risk to children's safety. The purpose of this bill is to protect children by implementing legislation prohibiting caregivers from leaving children unattended in a motor vehicle. This measure would also raise public awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended in motor vehicles and help in reducing the number of incidences. I respectfully ask for passage of this legislation before it becomes a serious problem for families.

Thank you for your consideration of this family issues and the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Mahalo,

Kimberly Lee  
Student, BSW Program, UHM  


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